

IMPROVED DATA SECURITY IN AN AUTOMATED DATA STORAGE LIBRARY

ABSTRACT

[60] An automated data storage library accesses data stored on storage media contained in cartridges in response to commands from an external host. The cartridges may include cartridge memory and a component in the library may include a cartridge memory interface for reading data from and/or writing data to the cartridge memory. When a cartridge is to be stored in the library, the library modifies the contents of the cartridge memory, or the contents of the storage media such that the data stored on the cartridge becomes inaccessible, thereby preventing access to the data outside of the library. To perform an authorized access, the library restores the contents of the cartridge memory or the storage media. Alternatively, the library provides a correction or correction algorithm to the drive to allow access to the data stored on the storage media without removing the access protection of the storage media. The cartridge memory or storage media may also or alternatively include an identifier which permits access to the data only by the identified physical and/or logical library(s).